

CITY OF KYLE PROPOSITION A FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WHY IS THE CITY OF KYLE CALLING FOR A BOND ELECTION?

The Kyle population has grown by 724% over the past 20 years, from 6,348 residents to 52,327¹. As the community grows, our public safety needs grow too. To address this growth, the Kyle City Council passed an ordinance on August 17, 2020 calling for a \$37-million bond election for a Public Safety Center. Ballot language was set for Proposition A, which will be considered by voters on November 3, 2020.

Funding from the proposed bond would finance the design, construction and equipping of a new Public Safety Center that would open in 2022 and serve residents for decades to come. This bond is an investment in our community.

WHAT EXACTLY IS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED BOND PACKAGE?

If voters pass Proposition A in November, they will give permission to the City of Kyle to sell general obligation bonds to fund the design, construction, equipment and interior build-out (FF&E) of a new Public Safety Center on Marketplace Avenue at Kohler's Crossing, as well as relocation services related to the move.

The 64,000 sq. ft., two-story facility would provide space for the City of Kyle to fully staff the Police Department in a single location – with room to grow over the next 20 years – and to deliver public safety services to our community. If approved by voters in November, construction could begin in spring 2021 and be completed in roughly 14 months.

HOW DID THE CITY DETERMINE THE SCOPE AND AMOUNT OF THE BOND PACKAGE?

Development of the bond package dates back to 2011, when a needs assessment for the Kyle Police Department was first conducted by Brinkley Sargent Architects. In an effort to avoid another temporary facility for the department, and to address the public safety challenges of Kyle's growing population, a task force was formed in 2018 to officially begin the process of researching and designing a Public Safety Center for consideration of bond funding.

After extensive research of facilities in other municipalities, the task force – made up of representatives from the City, Police Department and the community – identified the police headquarters in College Station and New Braunfels as an ideal model for the City's new Public Safety Center. Both facilities were designed by the architecture firm PGAL, and in early 2020 City Council approved funding for a contract with PGAL to customize an existing design for Kyle's Public Safety Center.

The process to date provided the City with an understanding of the construction costs needed to finance a Public Safety Center. Based on this information, City Council passed an ordinance calling for a \$37-million bond proposition – Proposition A – to go before voters on November 3, 2020.

WHAT WOULD A PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER OFFER TO THE COMMUNITY, AND WHAT CHALLENGES WILL IT ADDRESS FOR THE CITY OF KYLE?

The Kyle population has grown by 724% over the past 20 years, from 6,348 residents to 52,327. As the community grows, our public safety needs grow too.

Currently, the Police Department includes 54 sworn officers at an officer-to-resident ratio of 1.03 officers per thousand residents, which is lower than the standard ratio of 1.50 per thousand. The proposed 64,000 sq. ft., two-story Public Safety Center would provide space to fully staff the Police Department – in a single location – with room to grow over the next 20 years and beyond.

The new Public Safety Center would also have dedicated space to expand community-based programs like the Citizens' Police Academy and Citizens on Patrol, which connect the Police Department with the residents it serves, and

offer new programs and services for residents that the current police headquarters cannot support. In addition, the facility would provide space for an Emergency Operations Center where the City could collaborate with surrounding counties and authorities during critical times such as natural disasters, community-wide security threats, or even pandemics like COVID-19.

Finally, the proposed facility would allow the Kyle Police Department to pursue accreditation from The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®), which opens up opportunities for the Kyle Police Department to pursue various grants that could further improve recruitment, training and public safety services for the community. Accreditation from CALEA® provides greater accountability within the agency and increased community advocacy² through a set of standards that clearly define authority, performance and responsibilities.

HOW WOULD THE PROPOSED BOND PACKAGE IMPACT PROPERTY TAXES FOR KYLE RESIDENTS?

The \$37-million Public Safety Center would be funded by general obligation bonds, which are repaid by property taxes. If Proposition A passes, the City anticipates raising the property tax rate by an estimated \$0.0744 cents per \$100.00 of valuation during the 20-year lifecycle of these general obligation bonds.

The average property owner with a \$216,000 home within the City of Kyle would see their property taxes increase approximately \$13.50 per month, or about \$160.50 per year.

It's important to note, that in light of COVID-19, the City would defer the tax rate impact until October 2021.

WHY IS THE CITY OF KYLE PROPOSING A BOND PACKAGE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

The need for a Public Safety Center existed long before the pandemic, with initial discussions dating back to 2011. While the unprecedented situation with COVID-19 has impacted everyone in Kyle and beyond, it has also reinforced the need for a dedicated space for the City to provide public safety services to residents. Delaying this project will not change the City's need to deliver these services to a growing population.

In addition to providing space to fully staff the Police Department in a single location, the proposed facility would have dedicated space to expand community-based programs and services, and to create an Emergency Operations Center where the City could collaborate with surrounding counties and authorities during critical times such as natural disasters, community-wide security threats, or even pandemics like COVID-19.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BOND DOES NOT PASS?

If the bond does not pass, the City will have to pursue alternative options to house the Police Department, which would include leasing, renovating and retrofitting an existing space. Funds for an interim solution would be pulled from the Police Department's operating budget and could affect other services. Initial calculations for an interim solution would cost the City an estimated \$1 million per year.

WHAT IS THE BOTTOM LINE, THE ONE THING VOTERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE PROPOSED BOND PACKAGE?

This bond package for a new Public Safety Center – Proposition A – reflects our commitment to the proper and efficient progress of our city. This facility will allow the City to increase its public safety services to support the growing population. This is an investment in our community.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 2020 BOND ELECTION?

To learn more about the proposed bond for a Public Safety Center and see a full list of FAQs, visit CityofKyle.com/Bond, or reach out to the bond communications team at 512-843-8940 or 2020Bond@CityofKyle.com.

¹ *An Ordinance of the City of Kyle, Texas, Making findings of fact; Determining the number of inhabitants in the City of Kyle; and Providing for related matters*

³ *Benefits of Accreditation; Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., CALEA®*